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 Letter from Mr. Reason,

TO THE  
 HIGH and MIGHTY

Prince the Mob.

Great Prince,

YOur awesull Nod, and formidable Power, obliges me to Address my self to your Highness in a very humble manner; yet give me leave to say, (seeing it is truth) that I humbly conceive your Prudence bears no proportion to your Power, which puts me in mind of the Epithet given to *Hutchon*, mentioned in *Christ's Kirk on the Green*, viz. *tho he was Wight he was not Wise*: With all due respect to your Highness be it applied.

But that I may take the popular (or if you please the proper) way of accusing Princes, I shall attribute nothing to your Highness that is not becoming so great a Personage, wherefore your chief Ministers and Counsellors must be satisfied to bear the blame of any Male-administration that has happened or may happen.

Your Highness cannot be ignorant, if you know any thing of History or Politicks, that nothing has been more fatal to Princes than bad Councils, and I think few have been more unhappy that way than your self.

It is long time since my Lord Understanding, Mr. Judgment, Mr. Charity, my self, and others of our

Friends

Friends, did sollicite that you would be pleased to discard Mr. Malice, Mr. Spite, Mr. Jealousy, Mr. Headstrong, Mr. Discontent, Mr. Uncharitable, Mr. Reproach, Mr. Calumny, and all others of their Kidny; but it has been our misfortune and yours too, that hitherto they are still entertained by your Highness, and their Advice preferred to ours.

As one of your faithfull Counsellors, I must offer (tho with little or no hope of success) my best Advice, and it is this, that you make use of my Lord Understanding's Spectacles, by which you shall have a clear and distinct prospect of things, and Mr. Sound-Judgment's Rule, by which if your Actions are squared, I dare promise, you shall have (that which you seldom or never have had) the Approbation of all good Men.

I shall do your Highness the Justice to say, I believe the late Resentment you have shown against some of the Commissioners for the Union, proceeds from the misrepresentation of the bad Counsellors aforesaid, rather than from any ill opinion you have of them your self; but that the same is a step that cannot be justified, I affirm, for these Reasons, *viz.*

That the said Commissioners have not exceeded the limites of their Commission, for her Majesty was impowered by the Parliament to Nominate them without being restricted to this or that kind of Union, they being left at liberty to Treat with the *English* Commissioners to obtain the best Conditions they could, and lay the same before the Parliament to be approved or disapproved, as that August Assembly should think good.

Her Majesty accordingly gave them Commission for that effect, and in pursuance thereof they have insisted with the *English* Commissioners for obtaining just and honourable Terms to this Nation, and have brought their

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their Mind to be considered by the Parliament, which is still in their power to Reject, or to Amend, as in their Wisdom shall be thought good.

If there is any fault in this, it must be in the Parliament or Queen, or both, but it is unreasonable to blame the Commissioners for acting according to the Commission and Instructions of the Queen and Parliament.

But again, tho it should be found that the Commissioners have fail'd in their Duty, the Matter is under the Cogniscence of the Parliament, and there is yet no Interloquitor of Absolvitor or Condemnation. It seems to be preposterous work for your Highness to anticipate the Sentence of the Parliament; it was sufficient for you to have put all things to rights by a touch of your potent Hand, after the Parliament had given a wrong Sentence, or at least on that did not please you.

But further, what is it that your Highness complains of? Is it because they have consented to enter into an Incorporating Union, which some of your Highnesses Counsellors are pleased to call a selling of the Nation?

I do not pretend to be a Politician, and therefore shall not say much to the Nature of this Union, leaving that to be Cognosced by the Representatives of the Nation, who are the proper Judges of what is the best method of Uniting with *England*; only I shall say, whatever reasons others may have to dislike it, to me it seems plain that your Highness has the least cause to oppose it of any.

For not only have you least to lose if any loss should to the Kingdom happen, but even tho some should lose considerably, yet you will infallibly be a great Gainer.

The Peers, Barons, and Burghers, have nothing but the encrease of Riches to compence their loss of Honour and Priveleges, by abridging their Number of Representatives, but you lose nothing at all, and also is the first



who shall share in the advantage, and that more certainly and considerably than any other. For,

By the Communication of Trade, there will instantly be a sensible Improvement of our Manufactures of all kinds.

That I may make this appear, your Highness would know, that it is an uncontroversial Maxim in Trade, that the Gain lies chiefly in the cheap Purchase; especially of staple Commodities, such as our Product and Manufactures are. As for Commodities, that depend upon Fashion and Fancy, the luckyness of falling upon such Devices as please the Buyer is the rule of Gain upon them. But we are not to concern our selves with these; the bulk of our Merchandize being of the first kind.

It being then owned, that whoever can purchase any staple Commodity cheaper than his Neighbour, will have the advantage of him in the Mercat, it remains for me, to make it appear, that in this Kingdom, many valuable vendible Commodities, can be easier procured, purchased and Manufactured, than in *England* and other Neighbouring Nations.

The most considerable of our Commodities, are Linnen and Woollen Manufactures, Fishes, Cattle, Corn, Coal, and Salt.

We have the advantage in Fishing of all Nations in *Europe*; our Flax and Wooll is at least as easy brought up as any of our Neighbours, and our Cattle easier than in any other Neighbouring Nation; *Ireland* excepted.

All our Manufactures can be easier made than those in *England*, because that the Labourers are easier in their Victuals and Wages, by a third, if not a half of what they are in that Kingdom.

Our Linnen is a subject of Work for vast numbers of People, who can be employed therein at all seasons of the Year, which also they may Labour in at such times and  
sea

seasons when they cannot be otherways employed, and which they may lay aside without any inconveniency when other Labour requires their application, as is commonly practiced both in City and Country by the Women Servants, who are necessary for other Service, and only occupied this way when they cannot be otherways employed.

In the case of an Union, the Duty both on the *Scots* and *English* side will cease, which together with the Dues of the Officers of the Customs, is not much less than three pence an Ell.

This being taken off, these who incline to Manufacture Linnen will be encouraged to imploy more Hands, which will take up many that are now begging or lying launting in a starving Condition.

Neither will there be any fear of want of Consumpt or Vent for the Linnen Manufactured, for much more will be required in *England* alone, than all we are able to Manufacture; and it is not to be supposed but the united Parliament will rather encourage the Linnen Manufactures of this Kingdom than to import it from *Germany*, because whatever Money is given for *Scots*-Linnen circulates within the Kingdom, whereas that which is sent abroad cannot return but for the value of it of other Effects.

The encouragement upon this Commodity will be yet greater by the free access to the Plantations, to which we can Trade with less difficulty or expence than those of *England*, who in the present case find it a profitable Trade after paying the Customs here and in that Kingdom.

But our Woollen Manufactures may be much further improven than those of our Linnen can be, for by the free intercourse that will be after the Union between the two Kingdoms, there can be no impediment of sending our Woollen Manufacture to *England*, nor of bringing fine Wooll from thence, both which are now prohibite.

Perhaps some who are not acquaint with the state of the Woollen Manufactures in *England* may think our vending of Cloths, Stuffs and Drugates thither is impracticable, because we have fine Cloth cheaper from thence than it can be made here.

However, there is no mistery in this, for notwithstanding that we can have fine Cloth cheaper from thence than it is made here, we can afford them coarse Cloths, Stuffs, Plaidings, Fingrams, Creps, Serges, coarse Stockings, and many other kinds of Woollen Manufactures, cheaper than they are sold there by one 3d or 4th part of the value.

Moreover when fine *English* Wooll can be imported hither without risque or expence, other than for carriage, fine Cloths may be made here cheaper than in *England*; yea, doubtless the Masters of Woollen Manufactures there would settle some of them in this Kingdom for the advantage of having Servants easier here than they can have in *England*; particularly they can have their Wooll much cheaper Spun here than in the Southern parts of the Island, whereby our People would have such insight and knowledge of that Art, which is yet but in its Infancy here, that without all doubt the same could be cheaper made here than in *England*, by more than all the charge of bringing the Wooll hither and carrying back the Cloth, suppose we should grant that *England* will still be the place of greatest Consumpt.

Besides, the Dyes and other Ingrediants necessary for dressing the Cloth will be as cheap here as in *England*, because there will be no Duty upon them but what is now paid in *England* from whence we have the best of them, or at least from those who sell them little cheaper than they are sold in *England*.

But above all, to what advantage may our Fishing be improved, even far beyond what the *Dutch* make of it

now



now, and which they call their Golden-Mines, by reason of our near situation, which then we will be enabled to carry on to the full, not only Herring Fishing, but of all other sorts of Fish with which our Coasts abound.

By all which, all the hands we have, and many more of our own People that are gone abroad to earn their Bread, will be employed, which will also cause a great Consumpt of all kind of Manufactures and Merchantdize at home, whereby the value of our Lands, Corn, Cattle, &c. will also be raised to the benefit of every one, from the Peer to the Peasant.

By the encrease of Trade and Business, especially by Fishing, there will be much occasion for Shipping, and the *English* Laws requiring that all their Ships be home Built will then take place here, to the employing of Multitudes of Carpenters, Smiths and other People who must work upon Naval preparations.

I doubt not but some of your Counsellors may be pleased to suggest, that the Laws obliging our Ships to be home Built will be an inconveniency, because our Merchants may buy Ships cheaper abroad than they can Build them at home, considering the Wood will be to bring from *Norway*. But experience as well as common Sense makes it evident, that Wood for Building three Ships can be cheaper bought than one Ship Built, and whatever is given for Building at home is all saved Money to the Kingdom, and also gives employment to People that otherways would be Idle, and these People who earn their Bread this way, are enabled to live comfortably, and make demands upon all sorts of Commodities to the encouragement of other Tradersmen and Merchants, which they could not do if they lived Idle.

Thus you may see every thing has a dependance upon another as the links of a Chain. Live Trade on one Subject

ject affording matter for others, and these again producing subject of Work for People of other Employments, make a profitable and pleasant harmony in the whole Body, as for Example.

A great number of hands employed in Fishing require that much Hemp be brought up, Spun and Wrought in Nets and Cordage, these being well employed, afford work for Coupers, Carpenters and Smiths, for making Ships, Boats, &c. these again make a new demand upon Cordage, and the Ships being rigg'd, require Navigators; all these People require much Provisions from the Husband-Man, and upon his thriving the Heritors reap advantage; by the thriving of so many People, the Merchant as well as Mechanicks of all kinds get great encouragement, &c. Their being a perfect rotation, every Man lives comfortably, and all of them together make a powerful State or Kingdom.

These things are not Chimeras, or Suppositions without a foundation, but do arise as natively from a Communication of Trade, with a People that have the Power and Means to carry it through all *Europe*, as the melting of Snow or falling of Showers produce a flux of Waters to the filling of all the Rivolets and Rivers where they empty themselves.

Another thing which will make our Trade flourish, as a native consequence of an Union is, that we shall have the same Respect and Privilege in all the Ports abroad, with the *English* Nation, as well as the protection of their Ships of War, Ambassadors, Residents and Consuls, abroad in every place, whereby we shall not only have a safer Passage, but a more welcome Reception, as well as other Privileges or easings of Duties, in the several Ports where we carry our Goods.

I could insist much upon this Subject, and shew that in many particulars this Nation shall gain vastly by the Union, were it not that this is like to exceed the bounds of a Letter, and that I am unwilling to be tedious to your Highness, only this one thing I shall remark before I end this Epistle, viz.

That your Highness cannot be ignorant, that old *England* in the present posture of Affairs, notwithstanding all the heavy Taxes, and Calamities of War, lives much better than the Common People do here, eating plentifully of Beef and Cabbage, Pork and Puding, when your Highness must be satisfied to take a Nogon of Pottage or a Salt Herring, and that after the Union we of this Kingdom will have all the Means and Ways, whereby old *England* earns her Bread, and the advantage of a profitable Fishing to boot, in which case if we are not able to live as well as the *English*, it must be from our neglect to apply our selves to Trade and Labour, and consequently the fault must be in our selves.

Yours, &c.